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type seen in young girls when the number of cells may be high but the haemoglobin is markedly reduced.

Then there are the other so-called blood diseases in which there is an anemia but there is also some other distinguishing characteristic: notably, leukaemia of four types—acute and chronic, lymphatic, showing a great increase in the small white cells (the lymphocytes) and the acute and chronic myelogenous, where there is an enormous increase of all of the kinds of white cells but especially of the “myelocytes.”

(To be continued)

HEREDITY AND CONTAGION IN CANCER

The American Society for the Control of Cancer issues a statement on this subject, saying:

Perhaps no aspect of the cancer problem causes such widespread apprehension as the possibility of its being inherited. Broadly speaking such fears are probably groundless. When the disease occurs repeatedly in the same family there is a tendency to assume that it is inherited. This reasoning is of course superficial. Newsholme, Bashford and many other authorities have frequently pointed out that cancer is such a common disease among adults that by the laws of chance alone many cases are likely to occur in some families. It should be remembered that among people over forty years of age in this country cancer causes the death of one woman out of every eight and one man out of every fourteen. It is obvious that repeated instances must occur in some families and this of itself does not prove that cancer is hereditary. Important laboratory studies tend to prove the hereditary transmission of a liability to cancer among mice, but many leading authorities believe that we are not yet justified in applying these deductions to the human subject. Previous statistical investigation among human beings has failed to establish the inheritance of cancer and Mr. Hunter's study merely adds to the mass of evidence against heredity as a causative factor. In passing upon applications, insurance companies generally regard the history of cancer in the family as of little significance. The practical bearings of competent investigations of the human material should be brought home to newspaper readers in an effort to reduce the present excessive apprehension among the people regarding the possibility of inheriting cancer.

With regard to contagion we are on even firmer ground and the question may be regarded as settled. After countless operations there is no case recorded in which a surgeon or nurse has acquired cancer from the treatment or attendance upon any patient suffering from this disease. The public should be taught that the fear of infection is groundless since apprehension on this score has undoubtedly tended in many cases to prevent the most humane care of sufferers from a disease which, especially in its advanced stages, demands the utmost resources of patient and merciful ministration on the part of relatives and nurses.